



**ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM**  
Division of Environmental Health & Engineering  
4500 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 454  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2018

FROM: ANTHC Environmental Staff *me 6/6/18*

SUBJECT: Installation of Flexible Water and Wastewater Service Connections—Ambler, Alaska  
NEPA Categorical Exclusion—CPA Project No. AN 18-JE1

TO: NEPA DETERMINATION

Federal funding for this project requires an environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other state and federal regulations. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) has considered all potential environmental concerns associated with the project. A Denali Commission Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) was completed for the proposed flexible service connections project in Ambler, Alaska.

### FINDINGS

The proposed project type is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions in 45 CFR Part 900, Appendix A paragraph B1. Upgrades, repair, maintenance or minor renovations to buildings that do not result in change in the functional use of real property can be categorically excluded for further environmental review.

The Denali Commission CATEX (June 2018) finds no additional environmental investigation is needed. Actions involving construction were reviewed and no extraordinary or exceptional circumstances exist. It is therefore recommended the Denali Commission approve a determination of eligibility for categorical exclusion from the requirement to conduct further environmental evaluation for this project.

### BACKGROUND

The City of Ambler was incorporated in 1971. It is located on the north bank of the Kobuk River near the confluence of the Ambler and Kobuk Rivers. It is 45 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The city is named after Dr. James Ambler, a U.S. Navy surgeon on the U.S.S. Jeannette, who perished in 1881 while on an Arctic expedition. Ambler was permanently settled in 1958 when people from nearby Shungnak and Kobuk moved to the area.

for the fish variety, wild game and spruce trees. Residents are Kowagmiut Inupiat and practice a traditional subsistence lifestyle (DCCED 2018).

## REFERENCE

DCCED 2018 Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Community Database Online. Community: Ambler. Available at: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/DCRAExternal/community/Details/ceea5ed4-f88d-47ee-81dd-58cd8921b6da>. Accessed: May 31, 2018.

## SCOPE OF REVIEW

This project will replace failed water and wastewater service connections for two homes in Ambler, Alaska.

## CONDITIONAL APPROVAL/STIPULATIONS

Based on the environmental review performed by the ANTHC, the following conditional approvals, mitigation and control measures are required for this project:

- *Installation will be in accordance with existing naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) Site Specific Plan.*
- *Dispose of solid waste generated by this project in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) -permitted Ambler Landfill (SW3A180-21, expires March 1, 2021). Coordinate use of the landfill with the operator.*
- *To ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) "Construction Advisory for Protecting Migratory Birds." To ensure compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), notify USFWS and ANTHC Environmental Staff if an eagle nest is discovered within 660 feet of the project's limits.*
- *Land disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated or covered with coarse fill to prevent erosion of soil and sedimentation of down-gradient water bodies. Other control measures for preventing storm water pollution, such as use of silt fence and straw wattles, will be employed as needed.*
- *If hazardous waste or petroleum products are discovered or spilled during construction, the discovery or spill will be reported to ADEC's Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Division at 1-907-269-3063 during normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm) or at 1-800-478-9300 outside of normal business hours. ANTHC Environmental Staff will also be notified.*
- *Prevent adverse effects to community noise levels by limiting construction equipment operation to daytime hours.*

## SUMMARY

ANTHC has completed the environmental review for this project. ANTHC will revisit this review to determine if potential environmental concerns have been addressed if the project scope changes.





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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2018  
FROM: Cultural Resources Staff *for 6/5/2018*  
SUBJECT: Section 306108 Review of flexible service connections in Ambler, Alaska—  
AN 18-JE1.  
TO: NHPA Determination

This memorandum documents the Section 306108 review and determination for the above referenced project for compliance with National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements (54 USC 306100).

SCOPE OF REVIEW: This project will replace failed water and wastewater service connections for two homes in Ambler, Alaska.

CONDITIONS OR MEASURES: Conduct a Section 306108 consultation with SHPO. A qualified historic preservation professional will review the effects of the project on cultural resources located in the vicinity of the APE and make a determination based on the review. The agency will establish a finding based on the determination and provide SHPO with a review period of 30 days prior to initiating project construction activities.

### BASIS OF DETERMINATION:

1. (No. 17a). Does the proposed action involve the purchase, construction, alteration, renovation, or lease of a building or portion of a building that is more than 50 years old?

To be determined. The effects of the project on historic buildings in the vicinity of the APE will be determined after the homes to be served are selected. Resources in the vicinity of the community include AMR-00028 and late prehistoric/historic settlement site and AMR-00029, a separate settlement related to historic Gold Rush era Ambler.

2. (No. 17b). Will the proposed project adversely affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places?

Although DOEs have not been done on the two resources identified in item 1., above, both are likely eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.







# CATEX CHECKLIST

## CHECKLIST OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES & SENSITIVE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) DETERMINATION FOR A DENALI COMMISSION PROJECT

<b>Program Partner Name</b> Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)		<b>Project Name</b> Ambler – Installation of Flexible Water and Wastewater Service Connections	
<b>Location</b> Ambler, Alaska		<b>Project #</b> FAA 01538-00	<b>Subproject #</b> Ambler AN 18-JE1
<b>Identify Categorical Exclusion</b> The proposed project is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions in 45 CFR Appendix A to Part 900, paragraph(s) B1. Upgrade, repair, maintenance, replacement, or minor renovations and additions to buildings...equipment, and other facilities, ...that do not result in a change in the functional use of the real property.			
<b>Project Description (2-3 sentences maximum)</b> This project will replace failed water and wastewater service connections for two homes in Ambler, Alaska			
<b>Instructions</b> The information you provide below will assist the Denali Commission in making its determination as to whether a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) is appropriate or further environmental analysis is required for the proposed project. Please place a checkmark in the blank next to the numbered items indicating your response on that issue. A checkmark in the "Yes" block does not automatically preclude the development of the proposed project. It simply means further assessment is needed. Should you have any remarks that may indicate the need to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attach a brief explanation of the circumstances for further evaluation. Adverse effects to environmentally sensitive resources must be resolved through another environmental process, e.g., coordination or consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act or National Historic Preservation Act, before being categorically excluded. Attachments are allowed and encouraged.			

Extraordinary Circumstances	Determination		Basis for determination
	Yes	No	
<b>1. Public Health, Safety or Environment</b> Will the proposed project have a reasonably likelihood of significant impacts on public health, public safety, or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is typical in scope to other Alaska sanitation projects. There will be no impacts to public health, public safety or the environment.
<b>2. Controversy on Environmental Grounds</b> Will the proposed project have effects on the environment that are likely to be highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project complies with all applicable laws and requirements and will have the appropriate regulatory approvals. No environmental impacts will occur. The project is not controversial.
<b>3. Uncertain, Unique or Unknown Risks</b> Will the proposed project have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or are scientifically controversial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project does not use methods or material where there are uncertain, unique or unknown risks. There will be no impacts.
<b>4. Precedent for Future Action</b> Will the proposed action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is typical in scope to other Alaska sanitation projects. This project does not establish a precedent for future action or



			represent a decision in principle about future actions. There are no current or future environmental effects associated with the project.
<b>5. Cumulative Impacts</b> Will the proposed project relate to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Installation of flexible service connections at existing homes will not cause cumulative impacts or result in degradation of environmental concerns as outlined in NEPA.
<b>6. Scope and Size</b> Will the proposed project have a greater size and scope than is normal for the category of action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project does not have a greater size or scope than other rural Alaska sanitation projects.
<b>7. Environmental Conditions</b> Will the proposed project have the potential to degrade already existing poor environmental conditions or to initiate a degrading influence, activity or effect in areas not already significantly modified from their natural condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The environmental impacts of the proposed installation of flexible water and wastewater service connections project will not impact or degrade the existing environmental conditions or lead to environmental degradation. The project will benefit the homeowners and environment by replacing failing connections. Installation will be in accordance with existing naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) Site Specific Plan.
<b>8. Environmental Justice</b> Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?  Ref: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project will benefit low income and minority populations in Ambler by replacing failed water and wastewater service connections. Damage to the existing connections results in excessive heating costs or loss of service from freezing.
<b>9. Indian Sacred Sites</b> Will the proposed project limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites? (EO 13007)  <i>"Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Public Law No. 103-454, 108 Stat. 4791, and "Indian" refers to a member of such an Indian tribe. (EO 13007)</i>  Ref: Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	To be determined during the NHPA review process once the homes to be served are selected.



Sensitive Resources	Impact Potential		Basis for determination
	Yes	No	
<b>10. Section 106 Historic Properties</b> Will the proposed project adversely affect properties in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places?  Ref: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), as amended. (See 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined during the NHPA review and consultation process once the homes to be served are selected. Two cultural resources located in the vicinity of the project APE(s) (AMR-00028 and AMR-00029) are likely eligible for the NRHP. Mitigative measures, if they are needed, will be determined based on the results of the review.
<b>11. Endangered Species</b> Will the proposed project adversely affect species listed, or proposed to be listed on the Endangered or Threatened Species List, or the specific critical habitat?  Ref: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended. (See 50 CFR part 402).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA) -listed species or designated Critical Habitat in Ambler. The project will have No Effect on ESA-listed species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. IPAC Consultation 07CAFB00-2018-SLI-0102. April 6, 2018.
<b>12. Historic or Cultural Resources</b> Will the proposed action adversely impact the historic and cultural environment of the Nation?  Ref: Executive Order 11593, Protection and enhancement of the cultural environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined during the NHPA review and consultation process once the homes to be served are selected. A tribal consultation will be carried out in conjunction with the consultation process.
<b>13. Park, Recreation or Refuge Lands</b> Will the proposed project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ambler is located east of the Kobuk Valley National Park and west of the Kobuk National Preserve. It is not located within a National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands. There will be no impacts.
<b>14. Wilderness Areas</b> Will the proposed project adversely impact a wilderness area?  Ref: Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), as amended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ambler is not located in a designated wilderness area. There will be no impacts.
<b>15. Wild and Scenic Rivers</b> Is the proposed project a "Water Resources Project" that will impact a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?  Ref: Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as amended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ambler is located on the Kobuk River. A portion of the Kobuk River within the Kobuk National Preserve is designated as Wild and Scenic. The designated portion of the river is about

			60 miles east of Ambler. There are no wild, scenic or recreational rivers in the project area. There will be no impacts.
<b>16. National Natural Landmarks</b> Will the proposed project impact a National Natural Landmark? Ref: Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ambler is not located in or near a National Natural Landmark. There will be no impacts.
<b>17. Sole Source Aquifers</b> If the proposed action would not have adverse effects on this resource, it may be considered that there is no Impact Potential. Ref: Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349), as amended. (See 40 CFR part 149).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	According to the EPA website, as of 4/6/2018, there are no sole source aquifers in Alaska.
<b>18. Prime Farmlands</b> Will the proposed project convert significant agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses? Ref: Farmlands Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), as amended. (See 7 CFR part 658).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Designated Soils of National or State Importance have not been made in Alaska, although the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Kenai and Homer Soil and Water Conservation Districts have adopted criteria for Farmlands/Soils of Local Importance for lands within their jurisdictional boundaries. This project will not occur in any of these locations and will not convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.
<b>19. Wetlands</b> Will the proposed project adversely affect wetlands or will there be construction in wetlands, except in conformance with a U.S. Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit? Ref: Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands are not mapped in the project area. A review of aerial photography shows within the community, existing homes are located on fill pads and do not contain wetlands. Water and sewer lines are within the existing fill road rights-of-way. Therefore, no wetland impacts will occur, and a permit is not required from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
<b>20. Floodplains</b> Will the proposed project involve construction in a floodplain or impact floodplain development? Ref: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USACE Flood Report (June 27, 2017) states there is a very low flood hazard because the village is located on a 75 feet high bluff above the Kobuk River. The project scope is limited replacing water and wastewater service connections to



			existing homes, and will not impact floodplains or flood flows. The project will not encourage development within a floodplain.
<b>21. National Monuments</b> Will proposed project impact a National Monument?	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Ambler is not located near a National Monument. No impacts will occur. Ambler is not located within the boundaries of a National Historic Monument, therefore there is no potential for effects on a monument.
<b>22. Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas</b> Will the proposed project impact an ecologically significant or critical area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project scoped is limited to replacement of existing water and wastewater service connections. There will be no impacts to ecologically significant or critical areas.
<b>23. Other Known Reasons</b> Is an environmental assessment required for other known reasons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An Environmental Assessment is not required for water and wastewater service connections project.
<b>Additional Comments</b> The homes targeted for work under this project include the following: Mary Foster and Molly Brown. Figures showing the home locations are attached.			

PREPARED BY		
Date 6/6/2018	Typed or Printed Name and Title Karen Brown, Environmental Manager	Signature 
Organization: ANTHC		
DENALI COMMISSION APPROVING OFFICIAL		
Based upon the categorical exclusion identified above, this completed checklist and attachments, I certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information provided above is complete and correct, and that:		
A categorical exclusion determination is appropriate for this project	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Further environmental analysis is required	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Date	John Whittington General Counsel	Signature 6/25/2018 Jol
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### Additional Notes and Instructions

1. The basis for determination and documentation information must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. Types of information to be included in this column are outlined below.

**Printed Materials:** These are useful sources of detailed information materials such as comprehensive land use plans, zoning maps, city master plans, environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and studies. Information must be current and must represent accepted methodologies, i.e., not so old that changing conditions make them irrelevant. Citations for the material should include enough information so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference, e.g., author, document title, publication date, and page number.

Examples include the Record of Decision, Finding of Suitability to Transfer, Finding of Suitability to Lease, General Services Administration (GSA) Property Suitability Determination Form, Federal Property Information Checklist, Environmental Baseline Surveys, Preliminary Assessment Reports, Environmental Assessments, draft or final Environmental Impact Statements, and City/County master plan or zoning map.

Possible sources of the above documents include as appropriate, GSA, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the property owner, military base environmental office, local governmental organizations, local public library, and City/County planning office.

**Personal Contacts:** Personal contacts are useful when the individual contacted is an accepted authority on the subject(s), and the interview is documented. Supporting documentation should include the name, organization, and title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation. Examples include EPA officials, EPA hotlines, officials from state or local planning offices and environmental offices, or an environmental officer of an agency.

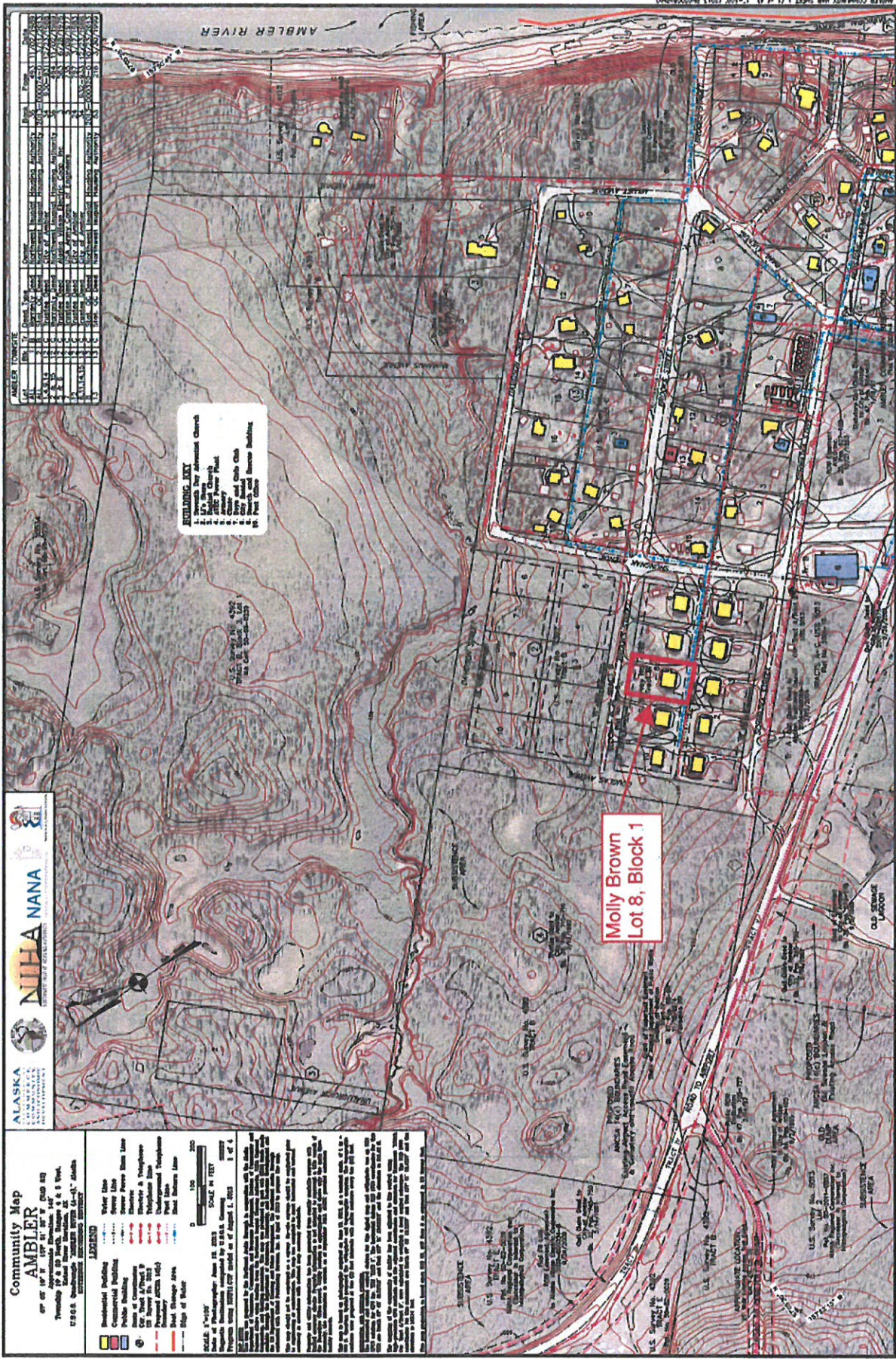
**Site Visits:** A site visit does not usually involve any testing or measurements. A site visit is an important method for initial screening of the issues, but for some of the categories it may be inadequate for final evaluation. Supporting documentation should include date of the site visit, by whom, and the supporting observation.

2. The agency must include pollution prevention considerations in the siting, design, construction, renovation, and operation of the project or facility. The questionnaire items on sedimentation and erosion control measures and storm water control plan are also pollution prevention related.









Ambler, Alaska







